A Plain and Unintereſted

Reflection

Upon the preſent CASE

OF THE

Eaſt-India COMPANY,

Under its following Circumſtances, *Viz.*

I. —— OF having been eſtabliſhed and ſupported by an Uninterrupted Series of *Royal Charters* of *Incorporation*, from Queen *Elizabeth*, and her Princely *Succeſſors*, down to thoſe of his preſent Majeſty; from whom, and from her late Majeſty Q. *Mary* of bleſſed Memory, it received Confirmation, by like *Charters*, in *October* and *November*, 1693, for 21 Years then to come; Whereof more then 16 reſt yet unexpired.

II. —— Of having had, in Vertue of theſe their Majeſties laſt *Charters*, few leſs than 800 New *Adventurers*, incorporated into it; but not without 740000 *l.* firſt Subſcribed, towards the enlarging of its *Stock*, and rendring the *Trade* of it, more extenſive, and more beneficial to the Nation.

III.—— Of having, notwithſtanding theſe *Grants*, and though in manifeſt Diminution of their *Rights* thereby, and to the known prejudice of its *Trade*, ſubmitted with all Alacrity, to a later *Charter* of *Regulations* in 1694, by which it is in particular made diſſolvible upon its appearing to the King, *not to be profitable to him, or this his Realm*; but yet not till *after* three *Years Warning firſt given it, under his Privy Seal or Sign Manual.*

IV. —— Of the Unſpeakable *Charge*, it has undergone in Purchaſing the *Freehold* of divers *Forts*, *Factories*, *Buildings*, and *Lands* in *India*, for the neceſſary Carrying on of its *Trade*; beſides other immenſe Sums, in fortifying, building on, and Accommodating to its Service, the Iſlands of *Bombay* and St. *Helena*, both inveſted by the *Crown* in the ſaid *Company*, as its perpetual *Inheritance.*

V. —— Of its like extraordinary and Unavoidable Charge, in the Purchaſe and Fortifying of its *Forts* on the *Weſt Coaſt* of *Sumatra*, and *Coaſt* of *Mallabar*, for the preſervation of its *Pepper-Trade*; as that without which, the ſame muſt have been expoſed to an obvious hazard of being loſt to the *Nation.*

VI. —— Of its having (beſides the *Publick Benefits*, otherwiſe ariſing from theſe its *Expences*, to the *Nation*'s *Trade* there) acquired to its ſelf a *Standing Income* of *Rents* and other *Duties*, to more than 40000 *l. per Annum*; and that Yearly encreaſing.

VII.—— Of having, beſides its forementioned 740000 *l. Subſcription-Mony*, paid upwards of 85000 *l.* to the *Crown* for its *Stock*, during the late *War*, over and above its Proportion for the preſent Year; and 295000 *l.* more for *Cuſtoms*, ſince the *Date* of that *Subſcription.*

VIII. —— Of its having, notwithſtanding and beſides all theſe *Burthens* and *Payments*, and particularly that of its *Cuſtoms* towards the ſecurity of its *Trade*; undergone within the five Years of its preſent *Charter*, the yet more heavy Calamity of loſing 12 Ships, to the *Value* of above a *Million* of *Pounds Sterling* more.

IX.

1698?

IX. —— Of having from theſe its loſſes, joyned to its other *Charges*, been neceſſitated (for preſerving the Remainder of its Unhappy *Stock*, and ſupporting of its *Trade*) not only to the making further *Advances* of its own, but taking up Conſiderable *Sums* elſewhere at *Intereſt*, for which both it and its ſaid *Stock*, ſtand at this day anſwerable.

X. —— Laſtly; Of finding it ſelf no ſooner brought within View of enjoying its Share at leaſt, with the reſt of his *Majeſties Trading Subjects*, in the benefits of *PEACE*; after ſo great an Over-proportion of Sufferings, from the Calamities of the *WAR*; but that, without the leaſt Default aſſign'd for it on the part of the *Company*, or regard ſhewn to the Proviſion even in that Caſe made by his *Majeſty* himſelf, in the three Years *Warning*: *A Project* has been concerted by Perſons (*Merchants* and *Others*) not intereſted in the ſaid *Company*, for the utter Supplanting it, and gaining to themſelves, excluſive of all Others, an immediate Propriety in its *Trade* by *Act* of *Parliament*; in plain Derogation of his *Majeſties Charters*; to the manifeſt Oppreſſion of the preſent *Company*, the much greater part of whoſe preſent *Members*, have not to this day (from the many forementioned *Charges* and *Loſſes*) touched one *Penny* of clear *Profit*, from the day of their *Subſcription*; and to the Obvious Ruin of Thouſands of Others, intereſted with them in the ſame.

In which their ſo Unaccountable Enterprize, ſhould theſe *Gentlemen*, by the Strength of what they have without any or at moſt with little Adventure, been gathering from the *Publick*, ſucceed; to the ſpoiling the *Company*, of the little which this *Accumulation* of Evils in the Service of the *Publick* has left it, of the *Trade* it has ſo dearly paid for the ſole *Title* to: It ſeems worthy of every ingenuous Dealer's Reflection: *Viz.*

REFLECTION:

What degree of Oppreſſion, Circumvention, *or* Violence *to* Publick Faith *it can be thought to be; that theſe* Gentlemen *can ever pretend to find fault with: When (as none will now think it impoſſible) another* Juncture *may ariſe, wherein* Themſelves, *under the beſt Securities either of* Right *or* Merit, *may be attacked with the ſame* Irrefutable Argument *they now glory, in being able to over-bear the preſent* Company *with?*

One Plain
REFLECTION
Upon the Caſe of the
Eaſt-Indin Company.